



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

[CFDA Number: 93.568]

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Announces the State Median Income Estimates for Federal Fiscal Year 2016

AGENCY: Office of Community Services, ACF, HHS.

ACTION: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), announces the State Median Income Estimates for a Four-Person Household for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 State Median Income Estimates for Use in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

SUMMARY: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), Division of Energy Assistance (DEA) announces the estimated median income of four-person households in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for FFY 2016 (October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016).

DATES: These estimates become effective at any time between the date of this publication and the later of (1) October 1, 2015; or (2) the beginning of a grantee's fiscal year.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces to grantees of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) the estimated median income of four-person households in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for FFY 2016 (October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016). LIHEAP grantees that choose to base their income eligibility criteria on these state median income (SMI) estimates may adopt these estimates (up to 60 percent) on their date of publication in the *Federal Register* or on a later date as discussed in the "DATES" section. This enables grantees to implement this notice during the period between the heating and cooling seasons. However, by October 1, 2015, or the beginning of the grantee's fiscal year, whichever is later, such grantees must adjust their income eligibility criteria so that they are in accord with the FFY 2016 SMI.

Sixty percent of SMI for each LIHEAP grantee, as annually established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is one of the income criteria that LIHEAP grantees may use in determining a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP. The last time LIHEAP

was authorized was by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-58, which was enacted on August 8, 2005. This authorization expired on September 30, 2007, and reauthorization remains pending.

The SMI estimates in this notice are 3-year estimates derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce (Census Bureau).

For additional information about the ACS state median income estimates, including the definition of income and the derivation of medians see

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/201](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2013_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf)

[3_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2013_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf) under “Income in the Past 12 Months.” For additional

information about using the ACS 3-year estimates versus using the 1-year or 5-year

estimates, see http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/estimates/. For

additional information about the ACS in general, see <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/> or

contact the Census Bureau’s Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at (301) 763-3243.

These SMI estimates, like those derived from any survey, are subject to two types of errors: (1) Non-sampling Error, which consists of random errors that increase the variability of the data and non-random errors that consistently shift the data in a specific direction; and (2) Sampling Error, which consists of the error that arises from the use of probability sampling to create the sample. For additional information about the accuracy

of the ACS SMI estimates, see

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2013.pdf.

In the state-by-state listing of SMI and 60 percent of SMI for a four-person family for FFY 2016, LIHEAP grantees must regard “family” to be the equivalent of “household” with regards to setting their income eligibility criteria. This listing describes the method for adjusting SMI for households of different sizes, as specified in regulations applicable to LIHEAP (45 CFR 96.85(b)). These regulations were published in the *Federal Register* on March 3, 1988, (53 FR 6827) and amended on October 15, 1999 (64 FR 55858).

ESTIMATED STATE MEDIAN INCOME FOR FOUR-PERSON FAMILIES, BY STATE, FOR
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2016, FOR USE IN THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

States	Estimated state median income for four-person families ¹	60 percent of estimated state median income for four-person families ^{2 3}
Alabama.....	\$66,253	\$39,752
Alaska.....	90,307	54,184
Arizona.....	65,138	39,083
Arkansas.....	58,262	34,957
California.....	77,106	46,264
Colorado.....	85,915	51,549
Connecticut.....	106,193	63,716
Delaware.....	85,925	51,555
District of Columbia.....	83,794	50,276
Florida.....	65,764	39,458
Georgia.....	68,448	41,069
Hawaii.....	86,495	51,897
Idaho.....	62,002	37,201
Illinois.....	82,918	49,751
Indiana.....	72,299	43,379

Iowa	79,300	47,580
Kansas	75,709	45,425
Kentucky.....	69,239	41,543
Louisiana	71,516	42,910
Maine.....	76,455	45,873
Maryland.....	107,438	64,463
Massachusetts	106,173	63,704
Michigan.....	75,711	45,427
Minnesota	92,111	55,267
Mississippi.....	57,024	34,214
Missouri.....	72,647	43,588
Montana.....	68,720	41,232
Nebraska.....	77,165	46,299
Nevada.....	66,461	39,877
New Hampshire	98,638	59,183
New Jersey.....	105,700	63,420
New Mexico	60,534	36,320
New York	86,316	51,790
North Carolina	67,706	40,624
North Dakota	88,725	53,235
Ohio	76,875	46,125
Oklahoma	64,907	38,944
Oregon	70,295	42,177
Pennsylvania.....	83,730	50,238
Rhode Island.....	89,353	53,612
South Carolina.....	63,706	38,224
South Dakota	74,498	44,699
Tennessee	66,060	39,636
Texas	69,517	41,710
Utah	70,740	42,444
Vermont.....	82,781	49,669
Virginia.....	92,379	55,427
Washington.....	85,013	51,008
West Virginia.....	67,613	40,568
Wisconsin	82,053	49,232
Wyoming	79,777	47,866
Puerto Rico	29,188	17,513

¹ These figures were prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce (Census Bureau), from 3-year estimates from the 2011, 2012, and 2013 American Community Surveys (ACSs). These estimates, like those derived from any survey, are subject to two types of error: (1) Non-sampling Error, which consists of random errors that increase the variability of the data and non-random errors that consistently direct the data in a specific direction; and (2) Sampling Error, which consists of the error that arises from the use of probability sampling to create the sample.

² These figures were calculated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services, Division of Energy Assistance by multiplying the estimated state median income for a four-person family for each state by 60 percent.

³ To adjust for different sizes of households for LIHEAP purposes, 45 CFR 96.85 calls for multiplying 60 percent of a state's estimated median income for a four-person family by the following percentages: 52 percent for a one-person household, 68 percent for a two-person household, 84 percent for a three-person

household, 100 percent for a four-person household, 116 percent for a five-person household, and 132 percent for a six-person household. For each additional household member above six people, 45 CFR 96.85 calls for adding 3 percentage points to the percentage for a six-person household (132 percent) and multiplying the new percentage by 60 percent of the median income for a four-person family.

Note: FFY 2016 covers the period of October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016. The estimated median income for four-person families living in the United States for this period is \$77,507. Grantees that use SMI for LIHEAP may, at their option, employ such estimates at any time between the date of this publication and the later of October 1, 2015 or the beginning of their fiscal year.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 45 CFR 96.85 (b) and 42 U.S.C. 8624 (b) (2) (B) (ii)

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